

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1 Claims 1- 6 (canceled).
- 1 Claim 7 (original): A spindle motor for use in a disk drive having a rotatable head stack  
2 assembly, the spindle motor comprising:
- 3 a spindle motor hub;
- 4 a magnet radially attached about the spindle motor hub; and
- 5 a spindle motor stator including:
- 6 a stator rim;
- 7 a plurality of wound stator teeth arrayed about and internally extending  
8 from the stator rim, windings being formed about the wound stator teeth, the  
9 wound stator teeth being sized to fit about the magnet in operable communication  
10 therewith for rotating the spindle motor hub; and
- 11 at least one bare stator tooth internally extending from the stator rim  
12 between two respective ones of the wound stator teeth, the at least one bare stator  
13 tooth being positionable adjacent the head stack assembly for allowing the head  
14 stack assembly to pivot over the at least one bare stator tooth.

1 Claim 8 (original): A spindle motor for use in a disk drive having a rotatable head stack  
2 assembly, the spindle motor comprising:  
3 a spindle motor hub;  
4 a magnet radially attached about the spindle motor hub; and  
5 a spindle motor stator including:  
6 a stator rim;  
7 a plurality of wound stator teeth arrayed about and internally extending from  
8 the stator rim, windings being formed about the wound stator teeth, the wound stator  
9 teeth being sized to fit about the magnet in operable communication therewith for  
10 rotating the spindle motor hub, at least one of the wound stator teeth being a reduced  
11 winding height stator tooth, windings being formed about the reduced winding  
12 height stator tooth to a winding height less than that of a remainder of the wound  
13 stator teeth, the reduced winding height stator tooth being positionable adjacent the  
14 head stack assembly for allowing the head stack assembly to pivot over the reduced  
15 winding height stator tooth.

Claims 9-14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (currently amended): A disk drive comprising:

a disk drive base;

a head stack assembly rotatably attached to the disk drive base; and

a spindle motor attached to the disk drive base including:

a spindle motor hub;

a magnet radially attached about the spindle motor hub; and

a spindle motor stator including:

a stator rim;

a plurality of wound stator teeth arrayed about and internally  
extending from the stator rim, windings being formed about the wound  
stator teeth, the wound stator teeth being sized to fit about the magnet in  
operable communication therewith for rotating the spindle motor hub; and  
at least one bare stator tooth internally extending from the stator rim  
between two respective ones of the wound stator teeth, the at least one  
bare stator tooth being positionable adjacent the head stack assembly for  
allowing the head stack assembly to pivot over the at least one bare stator  
tooth.

1 Claim 16 (original): A disk drive comprising:

2 a disk drive base;

3 a head stack assembly rotatably attached to the disk drive base; and

4 a spindle motor attached to the disk drive base including:

5 a spindle motor hub;

6 a magnet radially attached about the spindle motor hub; and

7 a spindle motor stator including:

8 a stator rim;

9 a plurality of wound stator teeth arrayed about and internally

10 extending from the stator rim, windings being formed about the wound stator

11 teeth, the wound stator teeth being sized to fit about the magnet in operable

12 communication therewith for rotating the spindle motor hub, at least one of

13 the wound stator teeth being a reduced winding height stator tooth, windings

14 being formed about the reduced winding height stator tooth to a winding

15 height less than that of a remainder of the wound stator teeth, the reduced

16 winding height stator tooth being positionable adjacent the head stack

17 assembly for allowing the head stack assembly to pivot over the reduced

18 winding height stator tooth.